

**Amendments to the Claims:**

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Original) The use of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof that are acceptable in an oral composition, for the preparation of an oral composition that is useful for treating and preventing aging of the pilosebaceous unit and/or alopecia.
2. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 1, for the preparation of an oral composition that is useful for reducing or preventing impairment of the connective tissue of the hair follicle.
3. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in claim 1-~~or 2~~, characterized in that the oral composition is useful for reducing or preventing impairment of the hair follicle induced by rigidification of the connective sheath.
4. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 3~~claim 1, characterized in that the oral composition is useful for reducing or preventing impairment of the hair follicle induced by excessive crosslinking and/or synthesis of natural collagens.
5. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 4~~claim 1, characterized in that the oral composition is useful for regulating the metabolism and structure of collagens in perifollicular skin tissue.

6. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 5~~claim 1, characterized in that the oral composition is useful for regulating the metabolism and structure of collagens in the connective sheath of the hair follicle.

7. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 6~~claim 1, characterized in that the oral composition is useful for preventing miniaturization of the hair follicle.

8. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 7~~claim 1, characterized in that the daily dose of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, as taurine equivalent, is between 0.5 and 4000 mg/day.

9. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 8~~claim 1, characterized in that the daily dose of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, as taurine equivalent, is between 10 and 500 mg/day.

10. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 9~~claim 1, characterized in that the daily dose of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, as taurine equivalent, is from 50 to 150 mg/day.

11. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 10~~claim 1, characterized in that the acceptable salts of taurine and/or hypotaurine are the magnesium, manganese, iron II or zinc salts.

12. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 11~~claim 1, characterized in that the taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof are used in combination with at least one of the compounds chosen from fatty acids, polyphenols and extracts comprising the same.

13. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 12, characterized in that the polyphenols are chosen from flavones, flavonols, isoflavones, anthocyanins, flavanols, proanthocyanidins and flavanones, and stilbenes.

14. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in claim 12-~~or 13~~, characterized in that the fatty acids are chosen from n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acids, containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, and also esters thereof, and mixtures thereof.

15. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 14~~claim 12, characterized in that the composition is in the form of a food supplement.

16. (Original) The use of polyphenol(s) chosen from flavonols, anthocyanins, flavanols, proanthocyanidins and flavanones, and stilbenes, and/or of fatty acid(s) chosen from n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acids, containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, and also esters thereof, and mixtures thereof, and/or of an extract comprising the same, for the preparation of an oral composition that is useful for treating or preventing disorders of the pilosebaceous unit.

17. (Original) The use as claimed in claim 16, for the preparation of an oral composition that is useful for reducing or preventing hair loss.

18. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in claim 16 ~~or 17~~, for the preparation of an oral composition that is useful for reducing or preventing the impact of testosterone on the pilosebaceous unit.

19. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 18~~claim 12, characterized in that the polyphenols are chosen from catechin, epicatechin, epigallocatechin 3-O-gallate, epigallocatechin, epicatechin 3-gallate, procyanidins and proanthocyanidins, and mixtures thereof.

20. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 19~~claim 12, characterized in that the daily dose of polyphenol(s) is between 0.5 and 2000 mg/day.

21. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 20~~claim 12, characterized in that the daily dose of polyphenols is from about 0.5 to 1000 mg/day.

22. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 21~~claim 12, characterized in that the fatty acid(s) is (are) chosen from linoleic acid,  $\gamma$ -linolenic acid, linolenic acid, stearidonic acid, crocetin and 5,8,11,14-eicosatetraenoic acid, and mixtures thereof.

23. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 22~~claim 12, characterized in that the daily dose of fatty acids is between 0.5 and 3500 mg/day and preferably between 5 and 1500 mg/day.

24. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 23~~claim 12, characterized in that the dose of n-6 fatty acids is between 0.5 and 2600 mg/day and preferably 5 to 1200 mg/day.

25. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 12 to 24~~claim 12, characterized in that the dose of n-3 fatty acids is between 0.5 and 2500 mg/day and preferably 5 to 360 mg/day.

26. (Currently Amended) The use as claimed in ~~one of claims 1 to 25~~claim 1, characterized in that the oral composition also comprises at least one of the supplements chosen from vitamins C and E, zinc or its salts, selenium and at least one carotenoid, preferably a carotenoid chosen from β-carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthin and lutein.

27. (Original) A composition for oral absorption, comprising, as active agent, at least 0.05% to 80% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof acceptable for oral absorption and an excipient, said composition being free of vitamin C.

28. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 27, characterized in that it comprises at least one polyphenol and/or at least one fatty acid and/or a salt thereof acceptable in an oral composition.

29. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 28, characterized in that it comprises from 0.01% to 10% by weight of at least one polyphenol and/or 0.1% to 10% by weight of at least one fatty acid.

30. (Original) A composition for oral absorption, characterized in that it comprises at least one polyphenol chosen from flavonols, anthocyanins, flavanols, proanthocyanidins and flavanones, and stilbenes, and/or a fatty acid chosen from n-6 and n-3 essential polyunsaturated fatty acid(s), containing between 18 and 22 carbon atoms, and also esters thereof, and mixtures thereof, and/or an extract comprising the same, in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or salts thereof acceptable for oral absorption and, where appropriate, an excipient.

31. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 28 or 30, characterized in that it comprises at least some polyphenols in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof in a polyphenol/taurine weight ratio at least equal to 0.5, in particular greater than or equal to 0.75 and especially greater than or equal to 1.

32. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 28 to 31 claim~~ 28, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.1% to 50% by weight of extracts comprising at least one polyphenol.

33. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in claim 30, ~~31 or 32~~, characterized in that it comprises at least some catechins in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.

34. (Original) The composition as claimed in claim 33, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.1% to 25% by weight of catechins.

35. (Original) A composition for oral absorption, characterized in that it comprises 0.01% to 30% by weight of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof, in combination with 0.01% to 10% by weight of fatty acids.

36. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~one of claims 29 to 35~~ claim 29, characterized in that it also comprises at least one of the compounds chosen from vitamins C and E, zinc or its salts, selenium and at least one carotenoid, preferably a carotenoid chosen from β-carotene, lycopene, zeaxanthin and lutein.

37. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~any one of claims 29 to 36~~ claim 29, characterized in that the excipient is acceptable for a food supplement, in the form of a sugarcoated tablet, a gel capsule, a gel, an emulsion, a tablet, a wafer capsule, a drinkable ampule, a dilutable or nondilutable powder, dietary bars or enriched foods.

38. (Currently Amended) The composition as claimed in ~~claims 27 to 37~~ claim 27, characterized in that it is a food supplement.

39. (Original) A cosmetic process for treating and preventing aging of the hair and/or alopecia via the oral administration of taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.

40. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 39, in which the taurine, hypotaurine or acceptable salts thereof is (are) administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 4000 mg per day, as taurine equivalent.

41. (Currently Amended) The process as claimed in claim 39-~~or 40~~, in which the taurine, hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof is (are) used in combination with at least one of the supplements chosen from zinc, polyphenols, fatty acids, vitamin C, vitamin E, and one (or more) carotenoid(s), for example  $\beta$ -carotene or lycopene.

42. (Original) A cosmetic process for treating and preventing disorders of the pilosebaceous unit via the oral administration of at least one fatty acid, one polyphenol or an extract comprising the same, optionally in combination with taurine and/or hypotaurine and/or acceptable salts thereof.

43. (Original) The process as claimed in claim 42, in which the taurine, hypotaurine or acceptable salts thereof is (are) administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 4000 mg per day, as taurine equivalent, and at least one fatty acid is administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 5400 mg/day, or a polyphenol is administered at a dose of from 0.5 to 2000 mg/day.